1982; Singh *et al.* 1983; Tiwari *et al.* 1987; Fun and Svendsen 1990; Rojas *et al.* 1992).

Preliminary research on food and medicinal value of *H. suaveolens* shows that the weed can be best exploited as a new potent food crop by developing countries, which have food grain crises, and as a potent antifungal and antibacterial agent. The results of our field studies are encouraging to include *H. suaveolens* in the list of new crops. The cultivated forms are particularly suitable as they have a larger fruiting calyx in which the seeds are retained for a longer time, facilitating harvest. Further, the wild and cultivated forms during their flowering phase sustain a variety of bees, especially the honeybee *Apis mellifera*, which voraciously gathers pollen and nectar exhibiting fidelity. Therefore, the potential of *H. suaveolens* for agricultural use seems great, as it is a low-water user and can grow on moist to dry soils.

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June 14, 1999 A. JACOB SOLOMON RAJU
Department of Environmental Sciences,
Andhra University,
Vishakhapatnam 530 003,
Andhra Pradesh, India.
MARTHA I. VERGARA SANTANA
Herbario-Hortorio Division, CGDIC,
University of Colima,
Colima, Mexico.

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39. *THOTTEA DINGHOUI* SWARUP, FAMILY ARISTOLOCHIACEAE, A NEW RECORD FOR TAMIL NADU

(*With one text-figure*)

While botanizing in the Kalakad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (KMTR) in Agastyamalai hills, Tamil Nadu, an interesting specimen, which showed close affinity to *Thottea barberi* (Gamble) Ding Hou. was collected. On comparing the specimen with the descriptions

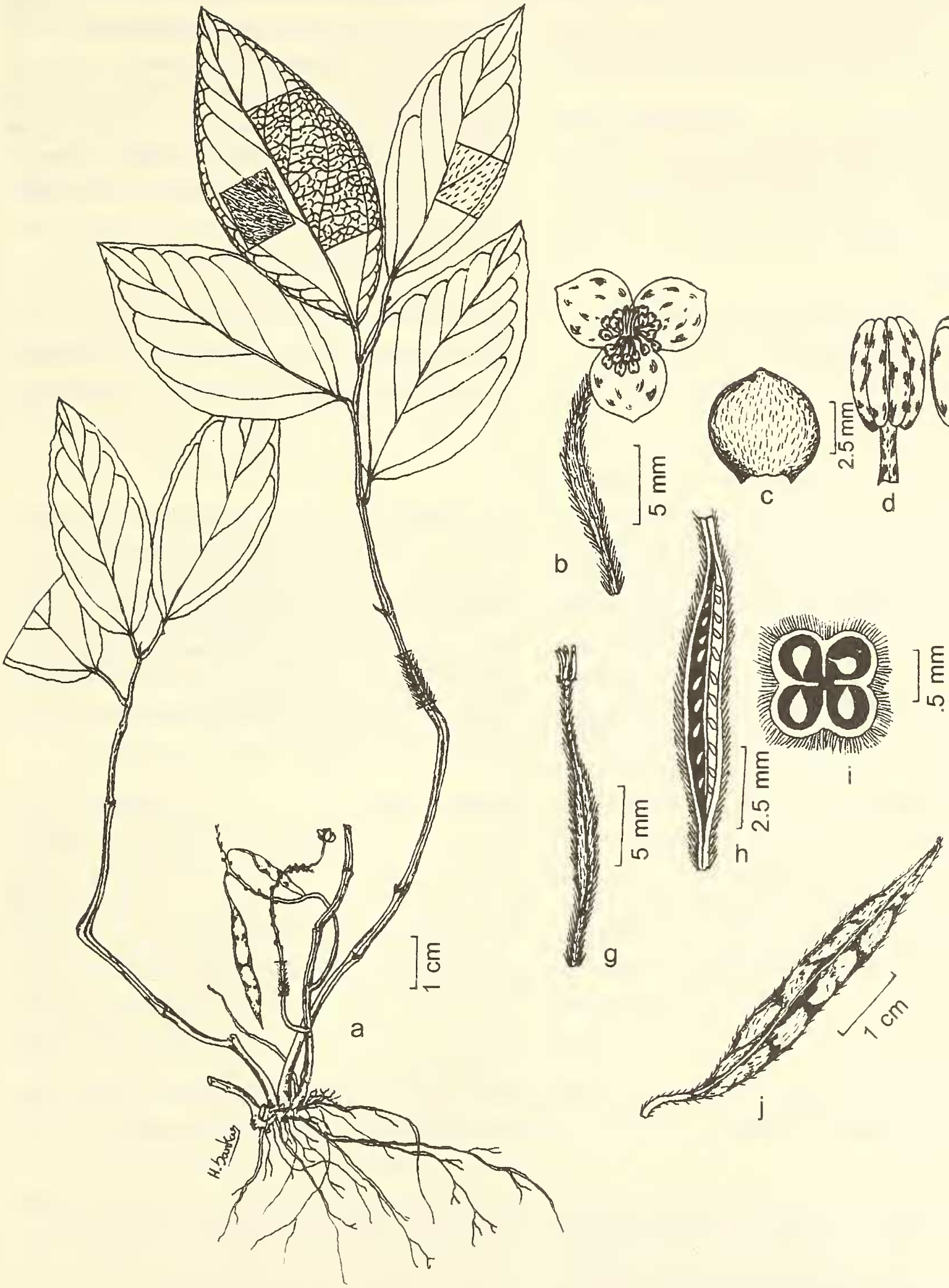

Fig.1: *Thottea dinghoui* Swarup, a. Habit; b. Flower; c. Sepal; d-f. Stamen (adaxial, abaxial and lateral views); g. Pistil; h-i. Ovary (longitudinal and transverse sections); j. Capsule.

in literature and specimens in MH, it was identified as *Thottea dinghoui* Swarup, a new species from Kerala, hitherto unrecorded from Tamil Nadu.

The description and illustration of the species are given, along with distribution, ecology and phenology. The voucher specimens are deposited in the St. Xavier's College Herbarium (XCH), St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai.

Thottea dinghoui Swarup

In: Blumea 28 (1983): 407-411

Erect herbs, 30-50 cm tall; stem rusty, pubescent. Leaves alternate, elliptic-oblanceolate, margin entire, apex acute, base acute to slightly obtuse, densely villous below, less so above, nerves prominent, *c.* 5 pairs, 9-17 x 3-8 cm; petiole up to 1 cm long. Inflorescence radical, *c.* 8 cm long; peduncle up to 0.5 cm long. Flowers 7-10, alternate, pale yellow; bracts and bracteoles small. Calyx 3-lobed, free, ovate-elliptic-orbicular, apex acute, base cuneate, hairy without, glabrous within, up to 5 mm long. Corolla 0. Stamens many, 15-20, in two whorls; filament short, connate at base, anther 2-celled, glabrous. Ovary oblong, *c.* 1 cm long, hairy; ovules numerous, in axile placentation; style short. Stigma 3-6 lobed. Capsule hairy, up to 5 cm long, quadrangular, pale pink. Seeds many.

Distribution: Prior to the present finding, reported only from Idukki district, Kerala. Probably endemic to southern Western Ghats, India.

Remarks: Extremely rare species, growing in the evergreen forests as undergrowth.

Fl. & Fr.: August-December.

Material examined: Tamil Nadu: Tirunelveli district, Sivasailam, V.S. Manickam 16673, 17174 (XCH). Kerala: Idukki district: C.N. Mohanan, Kulamavu 74117, 81603 (MH), A.G. Pandurangan, Meenmutty-Kulamavu 76679 (MH), Mount Calvary 79233 (MH).

Note: *Thottea dinghoui* Swarup is closely allied to *Thottea barberi* (Gamble) Ding Hou and *Thottea siliquosa* (Lamk.) Ding Hou, but differs in the habit, inflorescence and leaf morphology.

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V.S. MANICKAM
V. SUNDARESAN
C. MURUGAN
G.J. JOTHI
Centre for Biodiversity and Biotechnology,
St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai 627 002,
Tirunelveli District,
Tamil Nadu, India.

40. OCCURRENCE OF *NERVILIA ARAGOANA* GAUD. (ORCHIDACEAE) ON THE NALLAMALAI HILLS, EASTERN GHATS IN ANDHRA PRADESH

During a survey of medicinal plants of the Nallamalai Hills, Eastern Ghats, Andhra Pradesh, we collected specimens of an interesting ground orchid that was examined and identified as *Nervilia aragoana* Gaud. A survey of the literature revealed its presence in the hilly tracts of Western Ghats, Himalayas and Eastern Ghats. It has been reported to occur in Rampa Hills, Eastern Ghats, Andhra Pradesh (Gamble 1967). However, there exists no report of its occurrence from the Nallamalai Hills (Ellis 1968, 1987; Krishna Mohan 1985; Raju and Pullaiah 1995).